

CHAPTER I

Control of Communicable Diseases

Section I. Definitions.

The following words as used in these regulations, unless a different meaning is required by the context, or is specifically prescribed, shall have the following meanings:-

"Board of Health" shall include the Board, Department or officer having like powers and duties in cities and towns.

"Carrier" -- Any person known to have been sufficiently near an infected person or animal to have been presumably exposed to transfer of infectious material directly, or by articles freshly soiled with such material.

"Isolation" -- The separation of persons suffering from any disease dangerous to the public health, or carriers of the infecting micro-organisms, from other persons, in such places and under such conditions as will prevent the direct or indirect conveyance of the infectious agent to susceptible persons.

"Placard" -- An official notice, written or printed, posted as a warning of the presence of a disease dangerous to the public health on the premises or in the apartment or room so placarded.

"Quarantine" -- The restriction to the premises, house or apartment of materials and persons that presumably have been exposed to a disease dangerous to the public health.

"Incubation period" -- By "incubation period" is meant the usual period of time which elapses between the exposure of a person to infection and the development of the symptoms of the disease to which he may have been exposed.

"Immunes" -- An "immune" person is one who had the disease or has been artificially immunized against it, and is, presumably, protected against another attack.

"Last Exposure" -- By this is meant the date of the removal to a hospital, or the recovery or death of the patient, or the date on which the non-immune contact leaves and remains out of the house where the patient is isolated.

Section 2. Diseases Dangerous to the Public Health.

Diseases declared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to be dangerous to the Public Health shall be reported under the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 111, Section 6,7,109,111, and 112, as amended, and notices of the occurrence of each case must be sent to the Board of Health in the manner required by the statutes.

(A list of diseases declared to be dangerous to the public health may be obtained from the local Board of Health.)

Section 3. Physicians to Give Notice.

According to Chapter 111, Section 111, General Laws as amended, -- "If a physician knows or has cause to believe that a person whom he visits is infected with a disease dangerous to the public health, -- he shall immediately give written notice thereof, signed by him..." The Act further provides, -- "The forgoing provisions of this section and the provisions of section one hundred and nine shall not apply to venereal diseases as defined under Section 6, except in the case of eye infections in infants under two weeks of age. Any person having a venereal disease shall be reported to local boards of health, either directly or through the department, in accordance with such special rules and regulations as the department may make, having due regard for the best interests of the public."

Section 4. Householders to Give Notice.

When a householder knows that a person within his family or house is sick with a disease dangerous to the public health, he shall immediately give notice thereof to the Board of Health in the manner required by the statute (General Laws, Chapter 111, Section 109, as amended by Chapter

265 of the Acts of 1938) provided, however, that in cases in which a physician has been called in, his notification will be accepted in place of the householder.

Section 5. Infectious Diseases of the Eye. (Ophthalmia Neonatorum)

Chapter 111, Section 110, General Laws as amended by Chapter 180 of the Acts of 1932, -- "If either eye of an infant becomes inflamed, swollen and red, or shown an unnatural discharge within two weeks after birth, the nurse, relative or other attendant having charge of such infant shall report in writing, within six hours thereafter, to the Board of Health of the town where the infant is, the fact that such inflammation, swelling and redness of the eyes or unnatural discharge exists. On receipt of such report, or of notice of the same symptoms given by a physician, or a hospital medical officer registered under section nine of Chapter one hundred and twelve, as provided by the following section, the Board of Health shall take such immediate action as it may deem necessary, including so far as may be possible, consultation with an oculist and the employment of a trained nurse, in order that blindness may be prevented."

Section 6. Period of Isolation.

A person who is sick with any of the diseases dangerous to the public health shall be isolated in the manner and for the period prescribed in the Rules and Regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, except in such cases where longer periods are prescribed by the Board of Health.

Section 7. Method of Isolation in Certain Diseases

Whoever is sick with anterior poliomyelitis (Infantile paralysis), diphtheria, meningococcus meningitis, scarlet fever, smallpox, typhoid fever, or any other of the diseases declared dangerous to the public health that the Board of Health may designate, shall be immediately isolated in a place or room, approved by the Board of Health, or its agent, or shall be moved to a hospital set apart for the treatment of such diseases, and no person so isolated shall leave such room or hospital until the period of isolation for the disease with which he is sick shall have elapsed and until the Board of Health or its agent shall permit him to do so.

Section 8. Placards.

Houses or portions of houses in which there is a person sick shall be placarded for those diseases dangerous to the public health, for which placarding is required under the minimum Isolation and Quarantine Requirements of the State Department of Public Health. The card shall not be removed except on the authority of the Board of Health.

Section 9. Who May Enter Place of Isolation.

No person except physicians, nurses, and those whose duty it is to minister to the patient, shall be allowed to enter the place of isolation during the continuance of the disease, unless permitted to do so by the Board of Health, or its agent.

Section 10. Nurses, etc.

Nurses, and others caring for a person isolated as above, shall wash their hands thoroughly with hot water, soap and scrubbing brush immediately after handling the patient, his discharge or any article soiled by his discharges, before mingling with others. They shall change their outer clothing before going out.

Section 11. Dishes, Linen, etc.

All eating utensils and linen used by the patient shall be boiled for at least 15 minutes immediately after being taken from the room. Upon release of the patient, woolen articles shall be exposed to sunlight and air for at least 8 hours.

Section 12. Discharges, etc.

The discharges of a person sick with typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or dysentery, shall be mixed with chloride of lime or other disinfectant approved by the Board of Health and shall be kept in contact therewith for at least 30 minutes before being emptied into the hopper or privy vault.

Section 13. Articles Exposed, etc.

Books and other articles, which have been used by a patient having a disease dangerous to the public health, shall not be removed from the place of isolation and returned to general usage without notification to and full compliance with instructions of the Board of Health, or its agent.

Section 14. Quarantine of Contacts.

Contacts shall be under the restrictions prescribed in the Rules and Regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, except in such cases where longer periods are prescribed by the Board of Health.

Section 15. School Certificates.

Children who have recovered from or have been exposed to any disease declared dangerous to the public health (see Section 2) may return to school only after certification by the Board of Health or after examination by the school physician as prescribed in Chapter 71, Section 55, of the General Laws, as amended.

Section 16. Separability

So far as the Board of Health may provide each section of these rules and regulations shall be construed as separate to the end that if any section, sentence, clause or phrase shall be held invalid for any reason, the remainder of the rules and regulations shall continue in full force.

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BOARD OF HEALTH
Natick, Mass.

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Section 17. Penalty.

(a) Criminal Complaint - Whoever violates any provision of these rules and regulations may be penalized by indictment or on complaint brought in the District Court. Except as may otherwise be provided by law, and as the District Court may see fit to impose, the maximum penalty for any violation of these provisions shall be \$300.00 for each offense.

(b) Non-Criminal Disposition - Whoever violates any provision of these rules and regulations may, in the discretion of the Health Agent, be penalized by a non-criminal complaint in the District Court pursuant to the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D. For the purpose of this provision the penalty to apply in the event of a violation shall be as follows: \$50.00 for the first offense; \$100.00 for the second offense; \$200.00 for the third offense; and \$300.00 for the fourth and each subsequent offense. Each day on which a violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

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BOARD OF HEALTH
Natick, Mass.

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